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Ionizing-radiation warning — Supplementary symbol

*Avertissement pour rayonnements ionisants — Symbole
supplémentaire*



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Foreword

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ISO 21482 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 85, *Nuclear energy*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Radiation protection*.

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Introduction

The basic ionizing-radiation symbol, "the trefoil" [ISO 361, ISO 7010:2003, Table 1 (Reference number W003)], is used internationally to indicate the presence of radiation. There is a history of people, in particular those persons with insufficient technical education or background, receiving serious injuries or fatalities from handling large sealed radioactive sources and not correctly understanding the meaning of the basic ionizing radiation symbol on the source. The ability to interpret and understand the symbol is of crucial importance for all people.

With these problems in mind, the competent UN authority, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with direction from the international community saw a necessity to develop a new symbol that is capable of fulfilling all the requirements placed on a warning symbol.

For that purpose, the IAEA designed a number of symbols with different colours and shapes and evaluated them in a number of preliminary tests. A series of assessments and comparisons were completed among people with insufficient technical education or background, children and among different cultures in 11 different countries. The result is put forth in this International Standard.

This symbol is intended to supplement the basic ionizing radiation symbol.